

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 181125

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC;

SUBJECT: W/W STRANDED PASSENGERS OF AIR CANADA FLIGHT

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM FAMILIES OF PASSENGERS ON AIR CANADA FLIGHT SCHEDULED TO DEPART ATHENS AUGUST 17 FOR CANADA BUT CANCELLED AT LAST MOMENT. PASSENGERS ALL- APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL YOUTH FARE TARIFF AND MAY THEREFORE BE RESTRICTED TO PARTICULAR DEPARTURE DATE. FAMILIES IN US WERE ADVISED CHILDREN COULD NOT RETURN BEFORE SEPTEMBER 5.

2. DEPARTMENT ADVISING FAMILIES TO WIRE FUNDS TO CHILDREN, SOME OF WHOM ARE DESTITUTE, THROUGH SCS/TRUST PROCEDURES. DEPARTMENT ALSO SUGGESTING CHILDREN BE PROVIDED WITH SUFFICIENT MONEY TO PURCHASE ONE-WAY TICKET ON OTHER COMMERCIAL CARRIER IF THIS METHOD WILL PERMIT PASSENGERS TO DEPART BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

3. EMBASSY MAY ALREADY BE AWARE OF ABOVE SITUATION VIA WEEKEND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING CHANCES OF AIR CANADA MOVING PASSENGERS OUT OF GREECE BEFORE SEPTEMBER. WILL TICKETS BE FORFEITED OR CAN THEY BE CONVERTED TO OTHER FLIGHTS? KISSINGER

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